

MARVEL
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#20

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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



FEATURING
THE GREATEST
SPIDER-SLAYER™
STORIES
OF ALL TIME!

INCLUDING...

CAPTURED BY J. JONAH JAMESON! TO KILL A SPIDER-MAN!
24 HOURS TILL DOOMSDAY!
...AND MORE!

AT A DEMONSTRATION ON RADIATION, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY AN IRRADIATED SPIDER FROM WHICH HE GAINED THE ARACHNID'S INCREDIBLE ABILITIES. WHEN A BURGLAR KILLED HIS BELOVED UNCLE BEN, A GRIEF-STRIKEN PETER VOWED TO USE HIS GREAT POWERS IN THE SERVICE OF HIS FELLOW MAN, BECAUSE HE LEARNED AN INVALUABLE LESSON: WITH GREAT POWER MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. S T A N L E E P R E S E N T S :

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

SETUP!

THE FAMOUS J. JONAH JAMESON, PUBLISHER OF THE DAILY BUGLE, AND RENOWNED SPIDER-MAN HATER.

LOOK AT YOU SITTING SO SMUGLY WITH THE COSTUME AND WEB-SHOOTERS OF YOUR MOST HATED ENEMY SPREAD OUT BEFORE YOU.

AND HOW DID YOU ACQUIRE THESE ITEMS, JONAH?

DID YOU FACE DOWN SPIDER-MAN AND TAKE THEM FROM HIM WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE?

NO.

SOME STREET URGHIN DID THE JOB YOU WERE TOO COWARDLY TO PERFORM.

AND YOU BOUGHT THEM FROM HIM.

YOU ARE A COWARD, JAMESON!

ALWAYS WERE!

ALWAYS WILL BE!

HOWARD MACKIE
ERIK LARSEN
JOHN BEATTY
story and art

RS & COMICRAFT'S TROY PETERI
letters

GREGORY WRIGHT
colors

RALPH MACCHIO
editor

BOB HARRAS
chief

ALWAYS
GETTING OTHERS
TO DO YOUR
DIRTY WORK.

MY FATHER,
SPENCER SMYTHE,
WAS ONE OF THE
FIRST.

HE
CREATED THE
SPIDER-SLAYERS
AT YOUR BEHEST.

A CREATION
WHICH QUICKLY
BECAME AN OBSESSION
AND ULTIMATELY LED
TO HIS DEATH FROM
THE RADIATION
EMITTED BY THE
SLAYERS.

THEN, HIS
OBSESSION
BECAME MINE,
JAMESON.

HIS
FATE WILL
NOT.

NOW YOU
AND SPIDER-MAN
MUST PAY FOR
MY FATHER'S
DEATH.

I'VE DONE
EVERYTHING
YOU WANTED,
SMYTHE —

NO,
JONAH, YOU
HAVEN'T.

YOU'VE
ONLY DONE
THAT WHICH
YOU HAD
TO.

YES, YOU
HAVE FORGONE
YOUR TYPICAL RAMBLING
ANTI-SPIDER-MAN
EDITORIALS FOR THE
TIME BEING... STOPPED
RUNNING PICTURES OF
HIM IN YOUR RAG,
THE DAILY
BUGLE...

...BECAUSE
IT SUITS MY
PURPOSES.

AND YOU
HAVE PURCHASED
HIS WEB-SHOOTERS
AND COSTUME FROM
THE CHILD WHO FOUND
THEM FOR THE SAME
REASON.

YES...
YOUR INHERENT
COWARDICE HAS
MADE YOU QUITE
COOPERATIVE,
JONAH.

AND THERE
IS A CERTAIN
POETIC JUSTICE IN
WATCHING YOU SERVE
A SMYTHE FOR
A CHANGE!

BY THE
WAY... HAVE YOU
SPOKEN TO YOUR
LOVELY WIFE, MARLA,
AND YOUR HEROIC
ASTRONAUT SON,
JOHN, TODAY,
JONAH?

GO
AHEAD...
...GIVE
THEM A
CALL.

BRIING

DR.
JAMESON.
HOW CAN I
HELP 4 --

JONAH!

I WAS JUST
THINKING ABOUT
YOU.

I'M
DOING FINE,
HONEY, BUT
I'VE REALLY
GOT TO GET
BACK TO
WORK.

LISTEN... I
HEARD FROM JOHN
THIS MORNING AFTER
YOU LEFT. HE'S FLYING
IN FROM CALIFORNIA
THIS AFTERNOON.

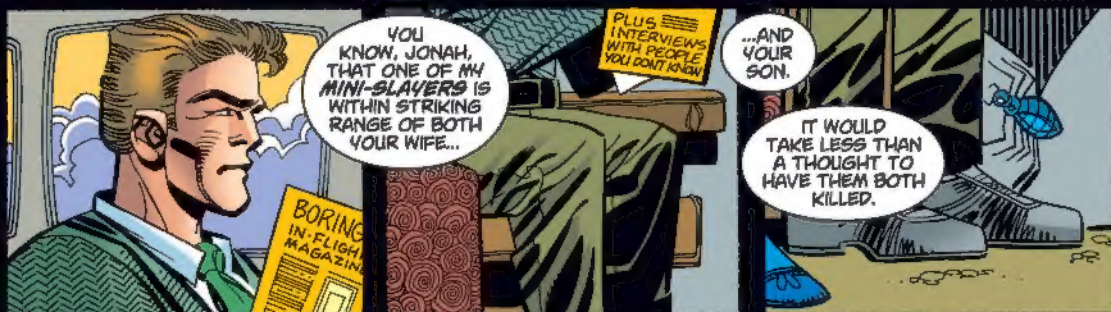
MAYBE WE
SHOULD ALL
GO OUT FOR
DINNER.

JONAH...?

"...ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU SOUND
DISTRACTED?"

"I'M FINE. JUST
CAN'T WAIT
FOR THIS DAY
TO END."

"I'LL SEE
YOU LATER."



"SO YOU WILL
CONTINUE TO
COOPERATE,
JONAH... WON'T
YOU?"



"YES... I
WILL."



"THEN LET
US BEGIN."

"WE HAVE
A PAPER TO
PUT OUT."

"AND A
WARM-BLOODED
SPIDER TO
SLAY!"



MEANWHILE...

AT THE APARTMENT WHICH PETER PARKER SHARES WITH RANDY ROBERTSON...

PETER, YOU'VE GOT TO CHILL.

LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO STRESS OVER THE DETAILS.

"DETAILS", RANDY?

THE RENT, ELECTRIC AND PHONE BILLS ARE ALL DUE AND I'M NOT SURE WHERE THE MONEY IS COMING FROM.

ME NEITHER.

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY YOU'VE GOT TO COME OUT WITH ME AND MY FRIENDS TONIGHT.

INSPIRED IDEAS ONLY COME FROM PARTYING AND RELAXING.

NOT REALLY IN THE MOOD FOR PARTYING, RANDY -- BRING

HELL-LO!

...DOOR!

HI! YOU'RE RANDY, RIGHT?

I'M JILL STACY, A FRIEND OF PETER'S.

I THINK WE MET AT MAY PARKER'S HOUSE... YOU KNOW WE ALL... WHEN PETER OPENED THE BOX...

YEAH, RIGHT... I DO. COME ON IN.

SAVED BY THE BELLS!

YOU GET THE PHONE AND I'VE GOT THE...

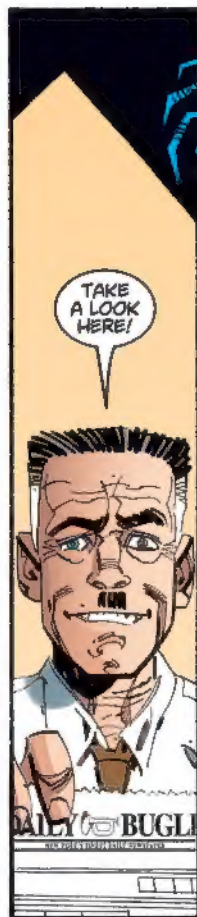
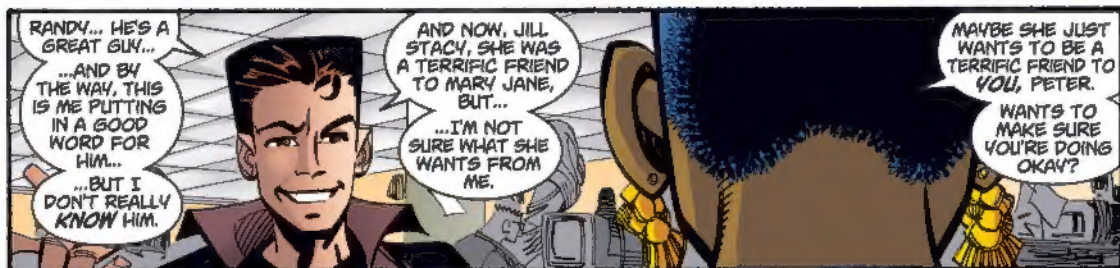
HEY, GLORY, WHAT'S UP?

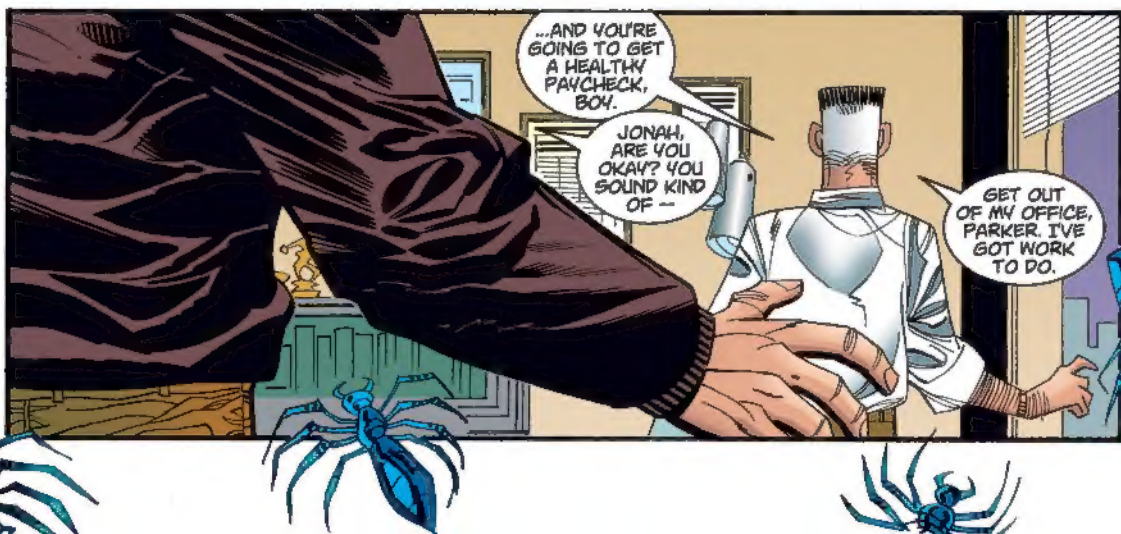
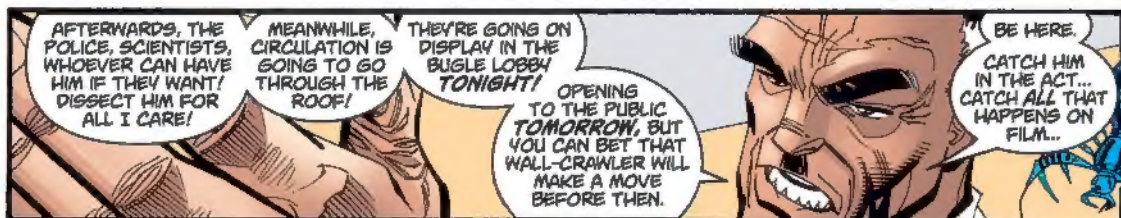
JONAH NEEDS TO SEE YOU. HE SAID IT WAS URGENT.

I THINK IT'S ABOUT A JOB.









SOMETHING IS GOING ON HERE.

SOMETHING MORE THAN THE TRAP I KNOW IS BEING SET FOR ME.

THERE'S SOMETHING JONAH'S NOT SAYING... MAYBE IT HAS TO DO WITH HIM LOOKING UNDER THE MASK WHEN I GOT KNOCKED OUT RESCUING HIM FROM VENOM.

I STILL DON'T KNOW IF HE ACTUALLY DID, BUT JONAH'S BEEN ACTING STRANGE LATELY.

See Peter Parker #10 for details — Ralf.

HOW YOU DOING, PETER? DOES LIVING WITH MY SON HAVE YOU CLIMBING THE WALLS YET?

NOT SO THAT ANYBODY'D NOTICE, ROBBIE.

I'D LOVE TO CHAT, SON, BUT I JUST GOT THIS AFTERNOON'S SPECIAL EDITION FRONT PAGE MOCK-UP, AND...

...I NEED TO TALK TO OUR ILLUSTRIOUS PUBLISHER.

FWAM

J. JONAH JAMESON

I THOUGHT WE'D GOTTEN PAST THIS KIND OF THING!

THIS IS NOT GOING TO BE PRETTY.

ROBBIE ROBERTSON DOESN'T GET MAD EASILY, BUT WHEN HE DOES...

...IT'S BEST TO PUT AWAY THE LETTER OPENERS AND STAPLERS WHEN THINGS GET LIKE THIS.

YOU KNOW, GLORY, RANDY ISN'T GOING TO GIVE ME A MOMENT'S REST UNLESS I FIND OUT IF YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN GOING OUT WITH HIM SOMETIME.

AND IF HE'S ANYTHING LIKE HIS DAD...

HAVE
THE BOY
GIVE ME A CALL
SOMETIME.
AND
WE'LL
SEE.

OKAY...
TIME FOR A
REFEREE TO
ENTER THE
RING.

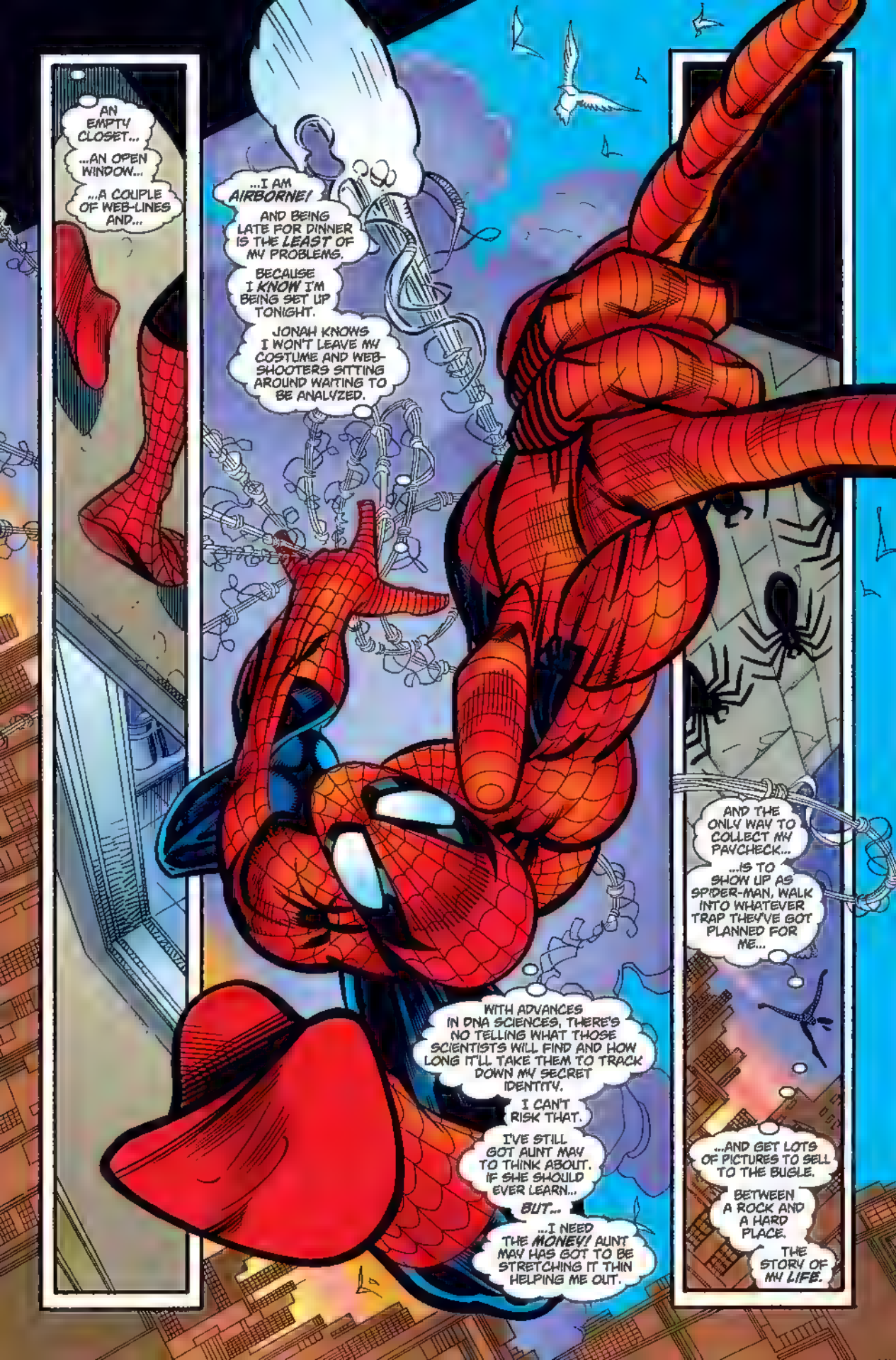
YOU
SHOULD GIVE
ME A CALL TOO,
PETER.
LET'S CATCH
A MOVIE OR
SOMETHING.

...I'LL...
THINK
ABOUT
IT.

A
FEW
MINUTES
LATER...

I'M
RUNNING
LATE
AGAIN.
THE
STORY OF
MY LIFE.

WHAT
WOULD I DO IF I
DIDN'T HAVE MY
OWN PERSONAL
FORM OF RAPID
TRANSPORTATION?



AN
EMPTY
CLOSET...

...AN OPEN
WINDOW...

...A COUPLE
OF WEB-LINES
AND...

...I AM
AIRBORNE!

AND BEING
LATE FOR DINNER
IS THE LEAST OF
MY PROBLEMS.

BECAUSE
I KNOW I'M
BEING SET UP
TONIGHT.

JONAH KNOWS
I WON'T LEAVE MY
COSTUME AND WEB-
SHOOTERS SITTING
AROUND WAITING TO
BE ANALYZED.

WITH ADVANCES
IN DNA SCIENCES, THERE'S
NO TELLING WHAT THOSE
SCIENTISTS WILL FIND AND HOW
LONG IT'LL TAKE THEM TO TRACK
DOWN MY SECRET
IDENTITY.

I CAN'T
RISK THAT.

I'VE STILL
GOT AUNT MAY
TO THINK ABOUT.
IF SHE SHOULD
EVER LEARN...

BUT...

...I NEED
THE MONEY! AUNT
MAY HAS GOT TO BE
STRETCHING IT THIN
HELPING ME OUT.

AND THE
ONLY WAY TO
COLLECT MY
PAYCHECK...

...IS TO
SHOW UP AS
SPIDER-MAN, WALK
INTO WHATEVER
TRAP THEY'VE GOT
PLANNED FOR
ME...

...AND GET LOTS
OF PICTURES TO SELL
TO THE BUGLE.

BETWEEN
A ROCK AND
A HARD
PLACE.

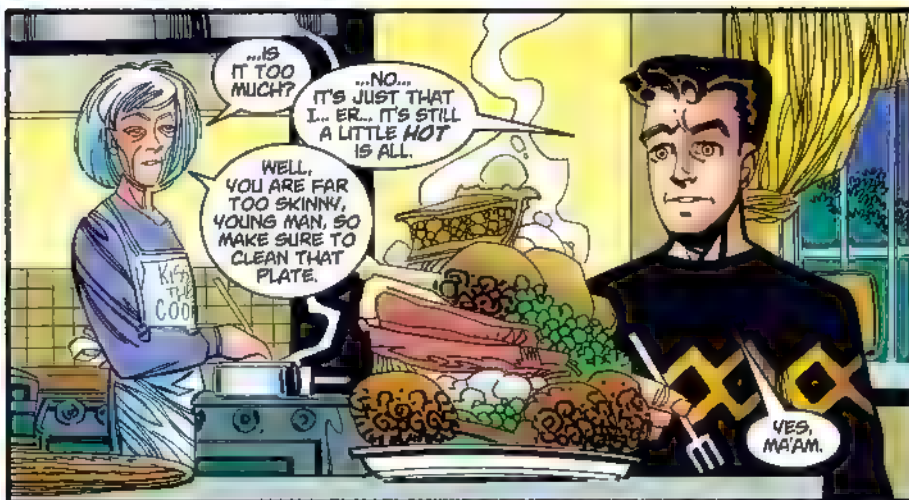
THE
STORY OF
MY LIFE.

A SHORT TIME LATER...

PETER, PLEASE... EAT!

AUNT MAY... I... ER...

WHAT...?

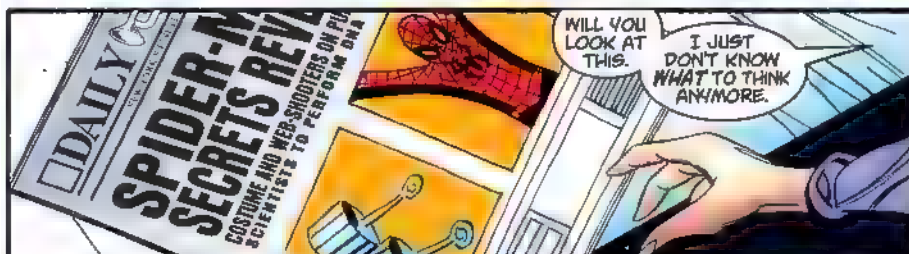


...IS IT TOO MUCH?

...NO... IT'S JUST THAT I... ER... IT'S STILL A LITTLE HOT IS ALL.

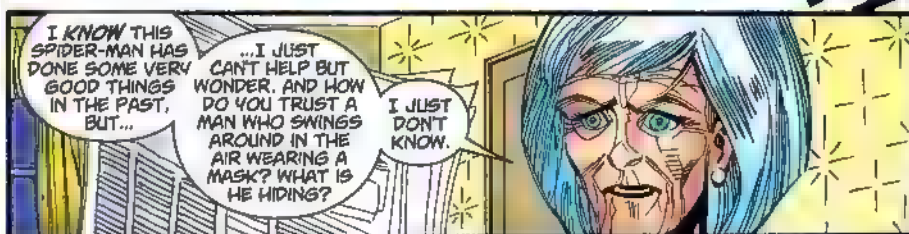
WELL, YOU ARE FAR TOO SKINNY, YOUNG MAN, SO MAKE SURE TO CLEAN THAT PLATE.

YES, MA'AM.



WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS.

I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK ANYMORE.



I KNOW THIS SPIDER-MAN HAS DONE SOME VERY GOOD THINGS IN THE PAST, BUT...

...I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER, AND HOW DO YOU TRUST A MAN WHO SWINGS AROUND IN THE AIR WEARING A MASK? WHAT IS HE HIDING?

I JUST DON'T KNOW.



HOW ARE THINGS GOING HERE, AUNT MAY?

LATELY EVERYTHING'S SEEMED SO FOCUSED ON ME... HOW ARE YOU DOING?

OH, I'M THE SAME AS EVER.

GETTING BY, SPENDING TIME WITH FRIENDS.

WHAT ABOUT MONEY? ARE YOU DOING --



THAT IS NOT SOMETHING YOU NEED WORRY ABOUT, DEAR. WE'RE PARKERS. SOMEHOW THINGS JUST WORK OUT.



RIGHT. SOMEHOW THEY DO.

LATER THAT NIGHT...

THE MENACE OF SPIDER-MAN!

THIS IS IT, PARKER!

THIS IS WHERE IT ALL COMES TO AN END. THE VINDICATION OF J. JONAH JAMESON.

EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN, JONAH?

DON'T BOTHER YOURSELF WITH THE DETAILS, PARKER.

FIND YOURSELF SOME PLACE SAFE TO SIT AND WAIT. AND YOU STAY THERE NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!

WHEN THE WALL-CRAWLER SHOWS UP, YOU START SNAPPING AWAY.

AND DON'T STOP UNTIL HE'S TRAPPED BUT **GOOD**.

I'LL BE IN MY OFFICE UNTIL IT'S OVER.

BUT **THIS** TIME...

...WHEN HE'S FALLEN...

...I WILL LOOK UNDER THE MASK.

I WON'T HESITATE UNTIL TIME RUNS OUT.

AND I'LL LOOK INTO HIS FACE FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND WE'LL SEE WHICH ONE OF US BLINKS FIRST.

WE'LL ALL SEE!

HE DOESN'T KNOW!

HE NEVER LOOKED!

ALL THESE WEEKS OF WONDERING AND...

...JONAH NEVER LOOKED UNDER MY MASK. WHAT AN INCREDIBLE RELIEF.



LATER THAT NIGHT...

WELL, THAT WAS A LOT OF WORRYING FOR NOTHING.

WORRYING IF JONAH KNEW MY SECRET IDENTITY AND WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO WITH THE INFORMATION.

SO IF THIS ISN'T ABOUT THAT...

...THEN WHAT IS GOING ON? WHY HAS HE BEEN ACTING SO STRANGE LATELY?



GUESS ALL I CAN DO IS SIT AND WAIT.

BUT FOR WHAT? FOR SPIDER-MAN TO SHOW UP?
I AM --

— WHOA!
SPIDER-SENSE IS KICKING IN.
WHATEVER IS GOING TO HAPPEN...
...IS STARTING!



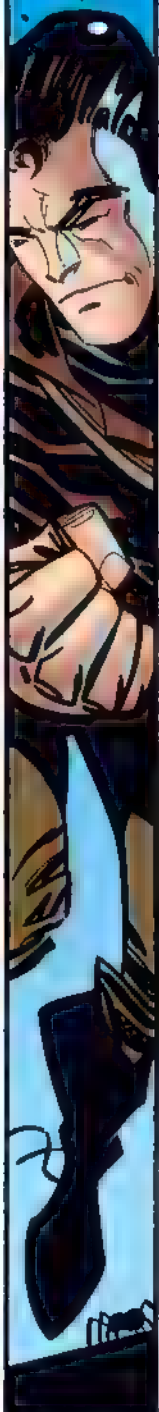
IS THAT A SPIDER-SLAYER?



A BIT ON THE SMALL SIDE.

BUT, WHEREVER THERE'S A SPIDER-SLAYER...

...ALISTAIR SAYS HE CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND.



ALL THE PIECES ARE STARTING TO FALL INTO PLACE.

NIGHT AS WELL GET THIS OVER WITH.

TIME FOR YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE.



AND WHILE THE SUSPENSE
BUILDS IN MANHATTAN, LET'S
BRIEFLY TURN OUR ATTENTION
TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR STEWART
WARD OF NEW YORK.

SENATOR
KELLY, YOU
HAVE THE FULL
SUPPORT OF
MY OFFICE.

IT'S A
SHAME THAT
IN THESE TIMES
OF PARTISAN
POLITICS, MEN OF
INTEGRITY MUST
GO OUTSIDE THEIR
PARTIES TO MAKE
A RUN AT THE
PRESIDENCY.

THANK
YOU, STEWART.
I WAS HOPING
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT.

NO...
THANK YOU,
ROBERT. I CAN
ASSURE YOU THAT
I AM NOT THE ONLY
ONE IN OUR PARTY
THAT IS READY TO
BACK AN INDEPENDENT
CANDIDATE WHO IS
WILLING TO BRING
THE MUTANT
AGENDA TO THE
FORE.

* Check out
X-Men #102
for the full story
— X-Rat.

I'D LIKE TO SHAKE
THE HAND OF THE
MAN WHO IS ABOUT
TO CHANGE THE
FACE OF POLITICS—
AS-USUAL —

'CHOO!
SORRY,
STEWART, BUT
I'M FIGHTING A
KILLER COLD.
I'D HATE TO
PASS IT ON
TO YOU

WELL, I
WOULDN'T MIND
SHAKING THE
HAND OF THE MAN
WHO IS GOING TO
HELP GET OUR
CAMPAIGN OFF
TO THE START
IT NEEDS.

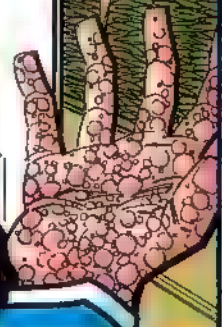
THANK
YOU, MS.
STRONG.

AS A
MATTER OF
FACT, SENATOR,
PERHAPS MY
FIRM COULD HELP
YOU WITH YOUR
OWN RELECTION
BID.

MAYBE WE
COULD DISCUSS
IT OVER DINNER
SOMETIME.

SUSAN. WE
HAVE ANOTHER
APPOINTMENT.

YES,
INDEED, MS.
STRONG...
...WE WILL BE
SEEING EACH
OTHER SOON.



AND BACK AT
THE BUGLE...

KTASH

SMYTHE!

I'M
HERE.

COME
OUT. I CAN'T
WAIT TO HEAR
HOW YOU GOT
OUT OF
PRISON.

BRAVO!

I ALWAYS HAVE
UNDERESTIMATED YOUR
INTELLIGENCE.

BUT WAIT!
IS THAT AN
EXPRESSION
OF SURPRISE
I DETECT
BENEATH THE
MASK?

YOU
WERE EXPECTING
ME TO BE IN MY
WHEELCHAIR...
WEREN'T YOU?

APPARENTLY
THE SPIDER-SLAYER
CARAPACE I USED AGAINST
YOU THE LAST TIME WE
MET HAD A BENEFICIAL
SIDE EFFECT
ON MY SPINE.

I'M
CURED.

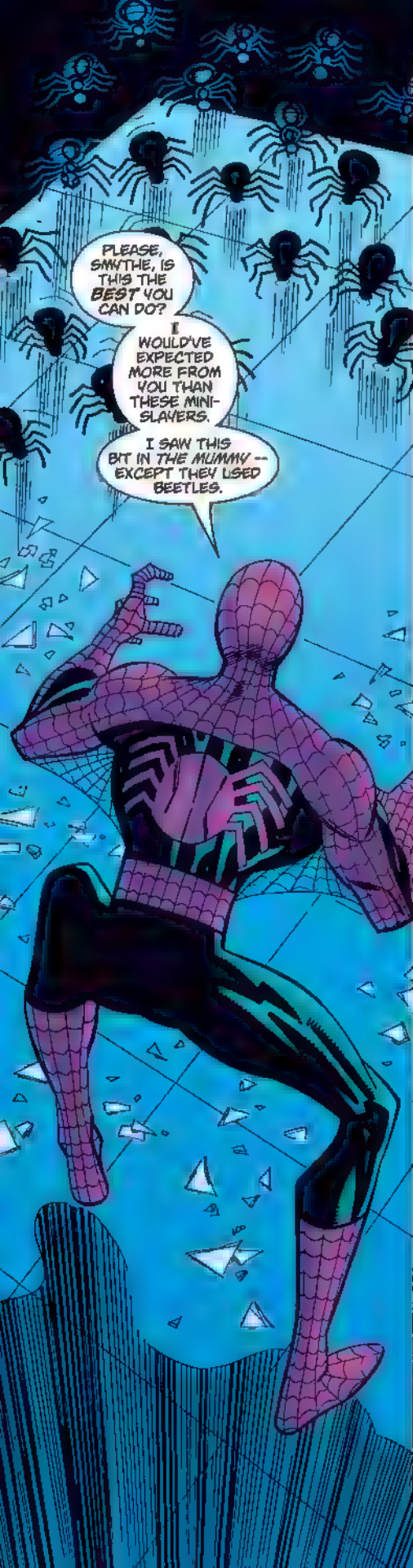
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

I
COULDN'T
BE LESS
INTERESTED
IN THE
EXPLANATION.

GRUNCH

YOU
SHOULD
NOT HAVE
DONE
THAT!

SNAP



PLEASE, SMYTHE, IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO?

I WOULD'VE EXPECTED MORE FROM YOU THAN THESE MINI-SLAVERS.

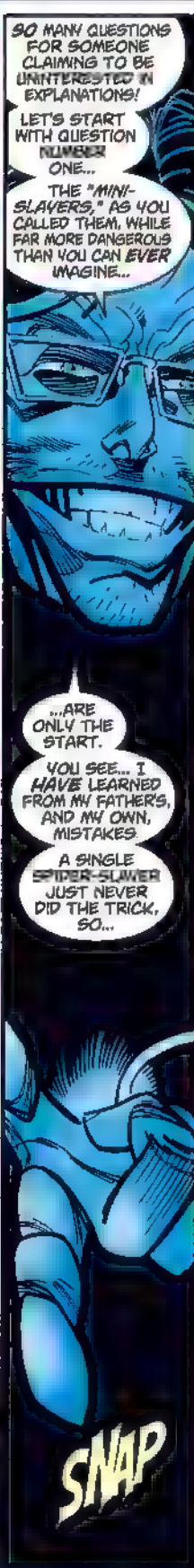
I SAW THIS BIT IN THE MUMMY -- EXCEPT THEY USED BEETLES.



WHAT DO YOU WANT?



WHY DID YOU SET JAMESON UP FOR ALL THIS?



SO MANY QUESTIONS FOR SOMEONE CLAIMING TO BE UNINTERESTED IN EXPLANATIONS!

LET'S START WITH QUESTION NUMBER ONE...

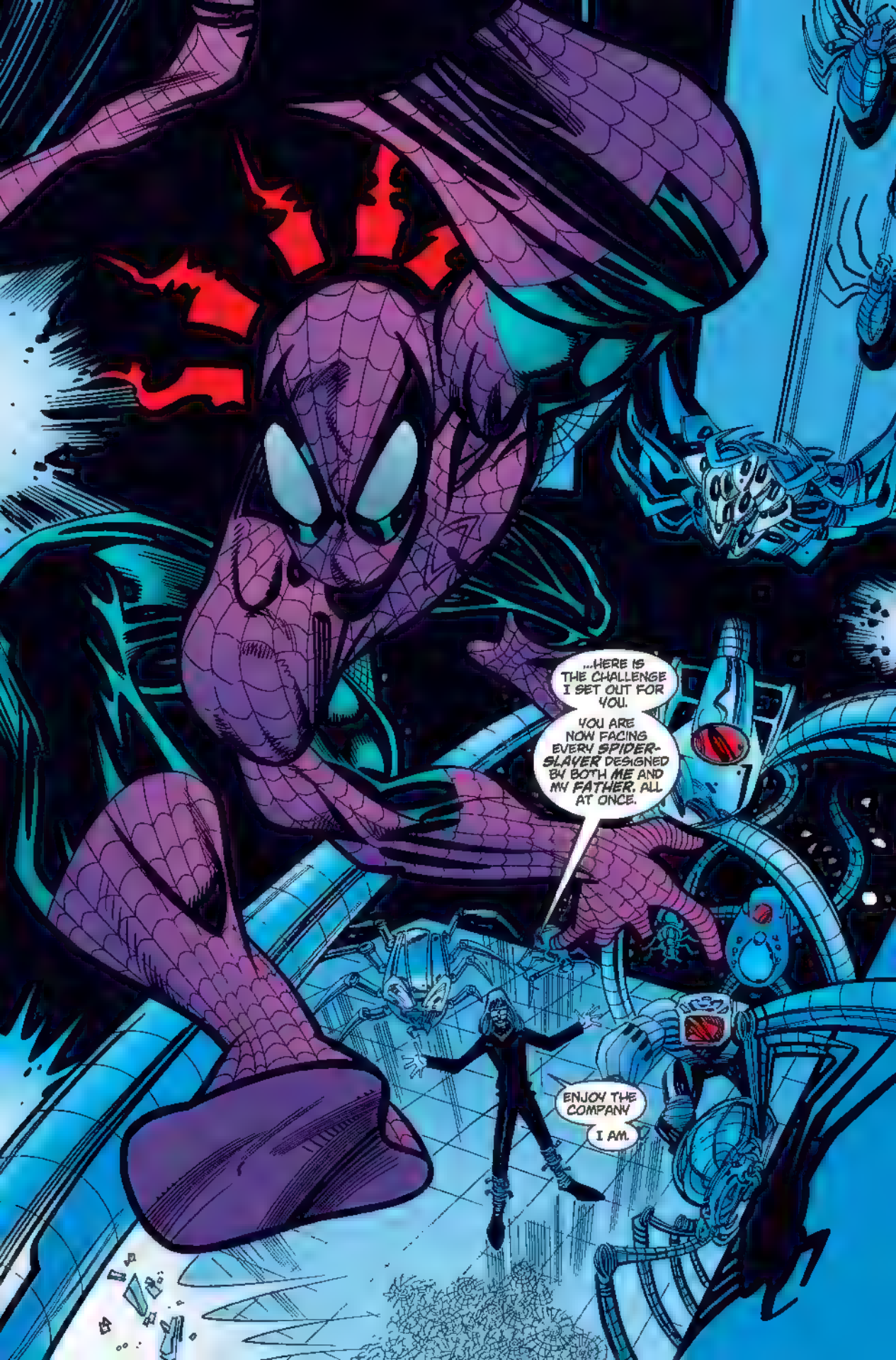
THE "MINI-SLAVERS," AS YOU CALLED THEM, WHILE FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU CAN EVER IMAGINE...

...ARE ONLY THE START.

YOU SEE... I HAVE LEARNED FROM MY FATHER'S, AND MY OWN, MISTAKES.

A SINGLE SPIDER-SLAVER JUST NEVER DID THE TRICK, SO...

SNAP

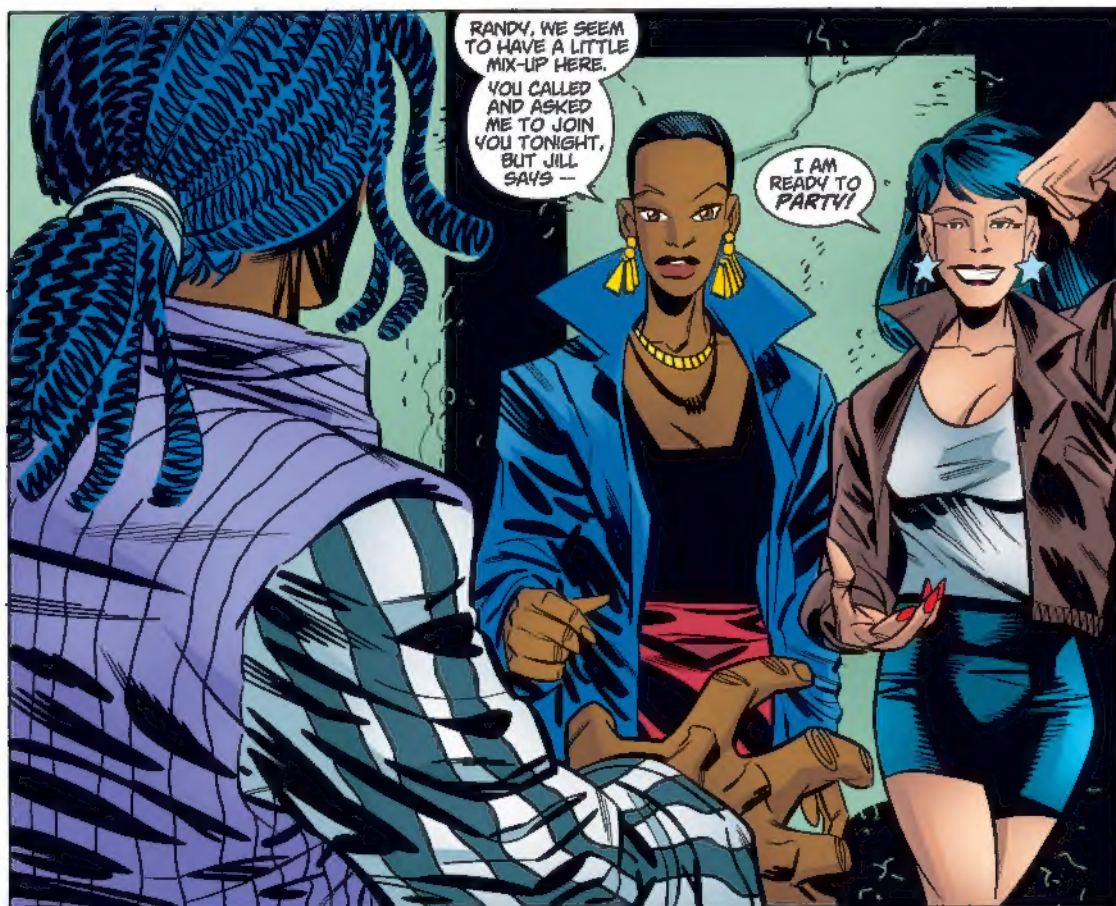
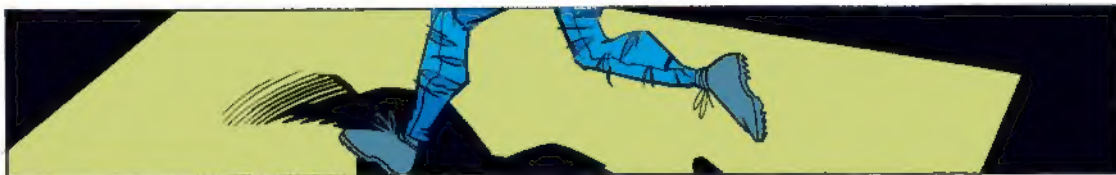


...HERE IS
THE CHALLENGE
I SET OUT FOR
YOU.

YOU ARE
NOW FACING
EVERY SPIDER-
SLAYER DESIGNED
BY BOTH ME AND
MY FATHER, ALL
AT ONCE.

ENJOY THE
COMPANY

I AM.



AND...

EXACTLY WHY AM I DOING THIS?

OH, YEAH... I NEED THE MONEY!

GOT THE CAMERA IN PLACE AND SET ON AUTOMATIC.


BUT THERE'S GOT TO BE AN EASIER WAY TO EARN SOME BUCKS!

SOME WAY THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE THROWING MYSELF IN FRONT OF A FREIGHT TRAIN AND GETTING THE GRUESOME PICTURE PUBLISHED IN THE BUGLE AS A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT.

YOU'D THINK I COULD COME UP WITH SOME WAY TO GET MY LIFE IN ORDER SO THAT I'M NOT ALWAYS JUST SCRAPING BY.

WHY CAN'T THINGS EVER WORK OUT FOR ME THE WAY THEY DO FOR EVERYONE ELSE?





THERE IS STILL THE ISSUE OF YOU AND JAMESON PAYING FOR WHAT YOU DID TO MY FATHER, KILLING HIM INDIRECTLY.



YOU SEE... WHAT YOU'VE FOUND UP UNTIL NOW WAS MERE DIVERSION.




ALLOW ME TO PRESENT...

...THE NEWEST, DEADLIEST SLAYER AND...

...A TRULY DEVIOUS PLAN!

AND THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING.



IF YOU COULD WRITHE AND TWIST IN PAIN FOR A FEW MOMENTS WHILE MY MINI-SLAYER STARTS INVADING THE DEEPEST RECESSES OF YOUR MIND...



...A SPLENDID TIME IS GUARANTEED TO BE HAD BY ALL!



TO BE CONTINUED
NEXT ISSUE!